



## Diane Marie (Smith) White

September 1, 1952 - December 8, 2022

Diane Marie (Smith) White passed away suddenly in Truckee, California on December 8, 2022. She was 70 years old.

Diane was born on September 1, 1952 in Berkeley, California to Walter James and Barbara Ann Smith. She attended schools in the East Bay, graduating from El Cerrito High School in 1970. She received her bachelors degree in nutrition from the University of California, Davis in 1974.

Following college, Diane moved to Soda Springs in Nevada County, California where she worked as a bartender. It was there that she met Charlie White, and the two were married in 1976. Their first home was at Donner Lake where together they lived for their entire married lives. They welcomed their only child, son Chris, in April of 1985.

Diane thrived at Donner Lake. She worked in the family business, Donner Lake Realty, handling mostly the vacation rental side of the enterprise. When not at work, she enjoyed living on the lake pursuing the many recreational opportunities the lake offered. She loved to fish, ride her sail board, and take her family and friends for her always-fun “cocktail cruises” in the evenings in the family boat. The surrounding mountains provided her with the opportunity to learn to ski, which the entire family enjoyed during the snowy winters in the Tahoe-Truckee area. Charlie was a private pilot and together they enjoyed

trips around the western United States in their twin-engine Piper Apache plane. They loved to visit Hawaii and did so almost every year. In the summers Diane liked to golf and got out as often as she could, even if it was only for a quick nine holes.

Her many friends and family members were always welcome at Diane's house on the lake. She would host parties in the summers, particularly on the 4th of July when her guests would spend time on her deck grilling steaks and enjoying her famous potato salad and even more famous margaritas! When the sun went down, all would pile into boats tied up at her dock and motor to the west end of the lake to enjoy the fireworks from the water. After the show was over, everyone would return to Diane's for what always seemed like dozens of pies, many of which she baked herself, and always enough for all comers, be it five or fifty people. It is a yearly tradition that will be sorely missed, but fondly remembered.

Diane enjoyed volunteering for the Experimental Aircraft Association, EAA, at the Truckee airport. She enthusiastically offered her services as cook for their pancake breakfasts.

Diane was known throughout her community and among her family for her fun and jovial nature and ever-present smile. She was adventurous and dauntless, a self-avowed "Truckee Girl." To know her was to take a master class in humor, generosity of spirit, and joie de vivre. We will miss her always.

Diane was preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her husband Charlie White and son Chris (Denelle) White, all of Truckee; sister Patty (Rich) Engelen of Reno; brother Dave (Carla) Smith of Reno; and two grandchildren, Madisen and Carson White, both of Truckee.

A Celebration of Diane's Life will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2023 at

1:30 p.m. at the Truckee Community Recreation Center, 10981 Truckee Way, Truckee, California. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for contributions in Diane's memory to the Alzheimer's Association or to a favorite charity.

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Diane's Memorial*



---

**Crystal Baker** - January 24, 2023 at 03:20 PM

BA

“ We are unable to attend Diane’s celebration of life service but we do celebrate her life. We had the privilege of knowing her as we have used Donner Lake Realty’s services in renting out our cabin in the winter for over 40 years. Professionally she did her customer service well and she did it with smiles and humor from our vantage point. A few years back she invited us to the Reno Air Show. She not only chauffeured us and fed us, she used the breaks to walk with us through the displays of planes, imparting her knowledge of aviation and answering our questions as we went from plane to plane and display after display. Her love of her family was obvious and her love of people and fun was always present. She will be missed, but her legacy and memories remain. Our hearts and love go out to Charlie, Chris and Denelle and their son and daughter. Bill and Nancy Archibald and family.

---

**Bill and Nancy Archibald** - January 18, 2023 at 12:05 AM

PT

“ For many years, the Taylor family near and far rented summer places to gather from Donner Lake Realty / Rentals and Diane was our point of contact - always accommodating, trustworthy, and a joy to work with.

In 1999, Patrick & Mary purchased their own place on Donner Pass Road but continued their relationship with Diane and her capable Rental Team to book summer rentals, ski leases. Diane was the best ! We will miss her special potato salad at the Pub as well as her enduring smile, warm greetings, and infectious laughter. We send our love in friendship to Chris & Denelle, Madison & Carson as well as to husband, Charlie. Always in our hearts is Diane.

---

**Patrick Taylor** - January 11, 2023 at 06:56 PM

KH

“ We rented ski cabins on Donner Lake for decades. Through them all, Diane was a joy to work with. I feel honored to have been one of her longest-lasting clients. I can hear her laugh and her sarcasm somewhere up in the heavens now. They're lucky to have her up there with them.

---

**karyn Hunt** - January 08, 2023 at 02:18 AM

MM

“ Shortly after I moved to town in 1989 Diane became one of my regular hair clients. She has been in my chair every 5 weeks ever since that first appointment. We immediately bonded as I had previously worked at the salon she and her mother frequented in ElCerrito, where she was from. She always liked to remind me that our friend/client relationship had gone on for so long she could remember me being pregnant with both of my children, now 30 and 27. Diane was one of my oldest and dearest clients and my heart is breaking at the thought of her never sitting in my chair again. We have shared many laughs and stories and I can tell you with absolute certainty she was one of the great ones! In all the years I knew her she never had a negative word to say about anyone, she was always positive and made the best of every situation, she was kind and generous and did a lot for the community. She loved her family and was so proud of Chris and her grandchildren. I always looked forward to seeing her. She will be greatly missed by me, and gals at Mane Attraction.

---

**Melody Meng** - January 06, 2023 at 04:58 PM

ER

I certainly will miss my Donner lake neighbor Diane White. Such fun parties making salsa together. So sorry not to attend memorial as we'll be on a cruise. She'll be greatly missed.

---

**elizabeth Robben** - January 07, 2023 at 09:11 PM

JT

*For years Jack and I would rent a house on Donner Lake from Charlie and Diane's Donner Lake Realty. We'd gather all the children from our blended family and have a wonderful time doing whatever activities Diane recommended to us. By 1989 we were so in love with the area that we bought a wonderful house on the south shore of the lake, again under Diane's guidance. For decades Diane and her assistants handled all the details of renting our house when we couldn't be there. We never had a bad experience, because Diane found ways to 'fix' any problems before we ever knew about them. When we were in residence, one of our great pleasures was to dine with Diane and Charlie, and we fondly remember the 'cocktail cruises' down the lake. We also shared an airplane culture with Diane and Charlie, swapping hangar stories, facilitating logistics, and experiencing the Reno Airshow. Whenever things got particularly complicated - Diane would keep us all on track. The altitude and stairs of our Donner house became too much for us a few years ago, so we handed the keys to Chris and let him expertly take care of clearing out, staging, and then selling our house in two days. Thus we haven't seen Diane for a while, and now we'll dearly miss her.*

---

**Jill Tarter** - January 08, 2023 at 02:13 AM

JG

*We will miss Diane and her constant wit and humor too. She was an amazing woman. Everyone loved her 4th of July get togethers and especially docking up and watching fireworks together from the lake. It has been our honor to have known Diane for over 40 years.*

---

**Jerry & Judy Gilmore** - January 09, 2023 at 12:35 PM

SB

*We will not be able to attend Diane's celebration of life but we will be there in spirit. We loved Diane. We had so much fun with Charlie and Diane on some Plane Talkers adventures. Diane and I spent time in the pool at Death Valley. As we talked, I realized that she was an amazing, strong and very kind woman. We will miss her very much. Love.....Vince and Susan Bruno*

---

**Susan Bruno** - January 21, 2023 at 08:58 AM



*Big D, too soon to say good bye. The big laugh and smile will be remembered always. We met and lived and shared a lot when we first lived on the Summit at Beacon Hill Lodge, where you honed I'll celebrate your life today with all those you touched and shared life with. Lillian Jamison (Diamond Lil)*

---

**Lillian Jamison** - January 21, 2023 at 12:00 PM